II.   AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces the prior listing of claims.

1.   (Previously Presented) A method of fulfilling requests for information data from a network client (80), said information data being accessible from a network server (90) and being displayable through a form-based format hypertext document whereby said information data is provided by the filling of dedicated form fields in said hypertext document, the method being characterized in that it comprises the steps of:

- receiving (13) at the network client, sent from the network server, a hypertext document and a program component;

displaying (31) the hypertext document, said hypertext document having initially no information data filling its form fields;

- obtaining (41) a request for information from a user of said network client through a user interface presented to the user as a result of the displaying of the hypertext document, and calling (43) the program component for obtaining the requested information data;

- upon determination (51) that said requested information data is already stored in a buffer memory allocated to the program component in the network client, obtaining (57) the requested data by retrieving the requested data from the buffer memory and filling (59) the dedicated form fields in the hypertext document with the retrieved information data;

- upon determination (51) that said requested information data is not stored in the buffer memory allocated to the program component in the network client, the program component obtaining (57) the requested data by downloading the requested data from the network server and

filling (59) the dedicated form fields in the hypertext document with the downloaded information data;

- displaying the hypertext document with the requested information data contained therein;

wherein the user is provided with the capability of modifying at least some of the information data which is presented to him, by changing the content of the corresponding form fields through the user interface, the method comprising the further steps of:

- automatically retrieving (701) the modified information data contained in the form fields and calling (701) the program component in order to store (703) the modified information data in the buffer memory;

in response to an action (705) performed by the user through the user interface, said action being performed independently of the retrieval of modified information data, calling (705) the program component in order to separately upload (709) to the network server the modified information data.

2.   (Cancelled).

3.   (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the step of displaying (31) the hypertext document, is preceded by a step (20) of user authentication, upon which, if the user connection to the network server is accepted, said displaying step (31) is performed.

4.   (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein said hypertext document is a HTML document and wherein the content of the form fields is managed by a script program

referenced in said HTML document by appropriate tags, said script program being notably responsible for calling the program component for triggering a download of information data requested by the user, for automatically retrieving from the form fields modified information data and calling the program component for temporarily storing the modified information data in the buffer memory, and for calling the program component for triggering an upload of previously stored modified information data.

5.   (Original) Method according to claim 4, wherein the step (41) of obtaining a request for information from a user, includes the following sub-steps:

        - using (403) said script program to retrieve selection data entered (401) by the user through said user interface, said selection data defining a category of information to be looked up;

        - using (405, 407) said program component for sending (405) said selection data to the network server, for receiving (407) in response, from the server, a record identification list corresponding to the information category selected, and storing (407) said identification list into the buffer memory;

        - using (413) said script program to call the program component in order to retrieve information data relative to a current record identified in said record identification list.

6.   (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 4, wherein said HTML document includes at least two frames and wherein said script program and said program component are referenced in the HTML document within two different frames.

7.   (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 4, wherein said script program is a
JavaScript program.

8.   (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 4, wherein said program component is a
Java applet referenced in said HTML document by appropriate tags.

9.   (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein said hypertext document
and/or said information data is downloaded or uploaded from or to the network server by using the
HTTP protocol.

10.   (Currently Amended) A computer system comprising means adapted for carrying out a
method of fulfilling requests for information according to any one of claims 1 and 3 to 9.

11.   (Currently Amended) A computer program, tangibly embodied on a computer readable
medium, comprising software code portions for performing a method of fulfilling requests for
information data according to any one of claims 1 and 3 to 9, when said computer program is
loaded into and executed by a computer system.

12.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product stored on a computer usable medium,
comprising computer readable program means for causing a computer to perform a method of
fulfilling requests for information data according to any one of claims 1 and 3 to 9.